



# Germany Makes Plea for Truce; Vienna Seeks Immediate Peace On Wilson's Announced Terms

## 50 to 200 Dead, 60,000 Homeless In Great Blast

**Renewal of Explosion in Government Shell Loading Plant Completes Total Destruction of Works Covering Eight Square Miles of Territory**

**Bursting Projectiles Bombard Whole Countryside, Causing Great Havoc**

**Towns Laid Waste and Inhabitants Flee as Before a Drive of the Huns—Fear That Great Underground Magazine Would Explode Causes Tie-Up in New York**

One of the greatest disasters that the metropolitan district has ever suffered drew on toward its close at Morgan, N. J., last night, where for the last twenty-four hours the burning government shell-loading plant managed by the T. A. Messpie Loading Company has flamed and thundered destruction.

Early yesterday morning it was erroneously reported that the fire in the great factory, which had been burning since early Friday evening, was under control. Since then five tremendous explosions of trinitro-toluol, stored there, and hundreds of minor blasts have practically wiped the entire plant, covering eight square miles, out of existence.

The terrific salvos, which burst out at irregular intervals as the fire ate its way from building to building, shook the entire State of New Jersey and caused minor damage in New York, forty miles away.

**Like a Visitation of the Huns**

They wiped out Morgan. They destroyed South Amboy, a town of 10,000 persons, from which all but a few hundred had fled. They created a devastated district as terrible as any that France may display for a radius of two miles about the plant. They wrecked scores of buildings in a far wider area.

Sixty thousand persons are homeless to-night—refugees from the stupendous cannonade that threatened to destroy their homes. No one has yet attempted to estimate the damage. No one has been able to count the injured or dead. The former are being cared for in hospitals filled to overflowing in a half-dozen towns and in tents erected by the Red Cross. The latter still lie in the blackened area where the great plant stood. The flames are so fierce still that no one has dared approach.

Damage to the loading factory alone is estimated at \$18,000,000. Estimates of the dead range from fifty to two hundred. Fourteen bodies to far have been recovered.

Added to the horror of the five earthquake-like explosions of TNT yesterday was the fear that the main magazine, in which hundreds of tons of it are stored, would be reached and set off.

**Order All Habitations Vacated**

Had this occurred the results would have been unthinkable. By noon, when it appeared as though the magazine must go, officers of the Ordnance Department who had assumed charge of the situation, ordered all habitations evacuated for a radius of ten miles about the plant.

All yesterday afternoon and evening roads leading away from Metuchen, Matawan, Perth Amboy and a half dozen other towns were choked with refugees, afoot, in carriages, motor cars, vans, trucks, anything that would get them away from the terror that lay behind. Their flight was as pitiable as any exodus before a German drive. Relief workers from New York and cities of New Jersey worked all night long for the homeless.

Alarmed by the report that flames were sweeping rapidly toward the magazine, the New York City authorities took matters into their own hands at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and ordered all traffic on the bridges and in tubes running beneath the rivers suspended. This added greatly to the confusion and panic here. Two hours later the order was rescinded.

The heat of the flames kept soldiers and rescuers far from the fire. Observations made by airplane, late in the afternoon, determined the safety of the magazine.

## Towns Rocked by Blast After Blast When First Danger Was Reported Over

At midnight Friday it was announced that the fire, which had then been blazing for four hours, was under control. Persons near the plant, who had remained up for fear of further disaster, then went to bed, confident that the worst was over.

At 2:30 a. m. the first great explosion came. The flames had broken away from the fire fighters of a half dozen towns and had taken hold of a small TNT magazine. The shock was felt

### Liberty Loan Prospectus

**ATROCITY IX**

A T CAMPENHOUT three German cavalry officers entered the house of a well-to-do merchant who was known to have a good wine cellar. (Bryce Report, page 43.) Having drunk ten bottles of champagne, they called in six more officers and continued the carouse on a larger scale. Suddenly one of the officers called for the society of the merchant and his wife. The servant tells the rest as follows: "Immediately my mistress came in one of the officers who was sitting on the floor got up, and, putting his revolver to my mistress's temple, shot her dead. The officer was drunk. The other officers continued to drink and sing. The officer who shot my mistress then told my master to dig a grave and bury her. My master and the officer went into the garden, the officer threatening my master with a pistol."

So the merchant buried his wife in the garden, and the German officer, in the rôle of undertaker and master of ceremonies, was "singing all the time."

When the Germans are out of Belgium what a reunion the Belgians will have with their dead!

**Loan Drags; \$1,097,611,650 Total Bought**

**\$4,902,388,350 Must Be Taken in Next Two Weeks to Go "Over the Top"**

### The Official Score

Subscriptions in the New York Federal Reserve District on the sixth day of the Liberty Loan campaign were:

\$43,886,200.

Subscriptions in the first six working days were

\$266,098,700.

Subscriptions should have been

\$568,418,052.

The loan is therefore

\$302,319,352

behind schedule in this district.

Of the \$1,800,000,000 quota of this district there remains to be subscribed

\$1,533,901,300.

An average of

\$117,915,485

must therefore be raised in each of the remaining working days of the campaign.

**BUY! BUY! BUY!**

America's home thrust for the finances of victory yielded \$1,097,611,650 in the first six days of the drive. In the next two weeks of campaigning \$4,902,388,350 will have to be raised to attain the objective sought by Secretary McAdoo, the commander in chief of the financial forces of the nation.

The gain for the sixth day, which was Friday, was \$242,122,750, which was the largest daily increase yet reported. The rate in which the subscriptions have been coming in has been progressively improving, yet the loan is far behind its schedule.

"While the actual sales through all agencies probably is somewhat in excess of this figure," a statement issued from the national Liberty Loan headquarters in Washington last night said, "the results obtained in the drive thus far are not highly encouraging. The campaign now has gone through seven working days (although reports for only six have been compiled) and only twelve more working days remain."

**Daily Averages Must Increase**

"Approximately \$5,000,000,000 in subscriptions still must be raised if the total amount asked by Secretary McAdoo is obtained. The daily average which must be achieved between now

## Yanks Advance Four Miles as French Smash 50-Mile Front

**Americans With Gouraud's Army Capture Bethenville in Hard Fighting**

**Attack Made on Brunnhilde Line**

**British Force Foe to Evacuate Positions North of Menacing Wedge**

PARIS, Oct. 5 (Bulletin).—The German retreat before Gouraud's army, which is supported by the Americans on the right, is quickening perceptibly. French troops reached Bethenville this afternoon, lying about three miles north of Moronvilliers.

Fort Brimont has been captured by the French troops, the War Office announces to-night. The mass of Moronvilliers has been taken and the massif of Nogent l'Abbesse encircled.

This indicates a retreat of four miles during the day.

French and Americans attacked on a fifty-mile front between the Meuse River, northwest of Verdun, and the Monts of Champagne, east of Rheims, yesterday.

Gains of two to three miles were made at various points. St. Etienne-Arnes, on the Arnes River, and Cunel, east of the Argonne Forest, were taken.

Between the Argonne and the Meuse the American First Army at some points is assaulting the Brunnhilde line.

West of the Argonne the enemy is fighting desperately, but is being forced back systematically. Chief of Staff March called attention in Washington yesterday to the fact that Gouraud's Franco-American army on this sector is only eighteen miles from the principal German railroad supply line of the whole system in France.

The enemy is removing long-distance guns protecting the railroad centre of Vouziers.

The advance of Gouraud has forced the foe to evacuate the Monts de Champagne salient.

Berthelot, striking at the rear of the Monts from the west, has crossed the Aisne Canal at new points and reached the outskirts of Berniercourt. In five days this army alone has taken 2,500 men and thirty-one cannon.

Haig reported last night that the enemy has begun a withdrawal on a new sector of the British front. He is giving up the high ground north of the wedge the British hold through the German defensive system.

The British have taken La Terriere and a section of the Hindenburg line and are everywhere across the Scheldt Canal between Crevecoeur and Le Catelet.

On the point of the wedge Haig reports his troops have made progress and taken 800 prisoners.

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## President's Peace Conditions Voiced at Washington's Tomb

THE only peace terms that America will consider were declared by President Wilson, in a speech delivered July 4 last, at the tomb of Washington, to be:

1. The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can separately, secretly and of its single choice disturb the peace of the world; or if it cannot be presently destroyed, at least its reduction to virtual impotence.
2. The settlement of every question, whether of territory, of sovereignty, of economic arrangement or of political relationship upon the basis of the free acceptance of that settlement by the people immediately concerned, and not upon the basis of the material interest or advantage of any other nation or people which may desire a different settlement for the sake of its own exterior influence or mastery.
3. The consent of all nations to be governed in their conduct toward each other by the same principles of honor and of respect for the common laws of civilized society that govern the individual citizens of all modern states in their relations with one another, to the end that all promises and covenants may be sacredly observed, no private plots or conspiracies hatched, no selfish injuries wrought with impunity and a mutual trust established upon the foundation of a mutual respect for right.
4. The establishment of an organization of peace which shall make it certain that the combined power of free nations will check every invasion of right and serve to make peace and justice the more secure by affording a definite tribunal of opinion to which all must submit and by which every international readjustment that cannot be amicably agreed upon by the peoples directly concerned shall be sanctioned.

## Foe Driven Back in Fog Yard by Yard

**Americans Go Forward in Fierce Struggle Between Argonne and Meuse**

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 5 (By The Associated Press) (7 p. m.). Fighting with all the ferocity of the early days of the war, the Germans did their utmost to-day to bring to a halt the American offensive.

Early this morning and in the forenoon the Americans pushed forward through a blanket of fog a yard at a time, and later in the day, when the mists lifted, they drove forward a further distance against the German line.

Almost no change has been made on the right near the Meuse, but on the left the operations of the French west of the Argonne Forest and the Americans on the east defined more clearly the salient in which the enemy still has a considerable force opposing the Americans, who have been steadily clearing the forest of machine gun nests.

### Enemy Fights Stubbornly

Again the Germans concentrated their greatest effort on the centre in an effort to prevent the swinging upward of their lines to a point which would endanger yet further that part of the army left in the Argonne Woods. Although the artillery action of the Germans to-day was terrific—the volume was greater than yesterday—there was a notable reduction of aerial effort. Only occasionally did the German aviators accept the challenge of the Americans to-day, and even a bombing expedition to Landres-et-St. Georges, where more than two tons of bombs were dropped, did not develop resistance.

The contrast in the forenoon was not surprising, because of the low visibility, but conditions in the afternoon were excellent, and full advantage was taken of them by the French and Americans, who carried out a hundred missions, ranging from simple observation to bombing the back areas. The theory of the aviators is that the Germans have adopted a policy of concentrating their airplanes, using them to great extent only on cloudy days, such as yesterday. On cloudy days they can fly by compass above the clouds, swooping below them when occasion demands, then disappearing above almost immediately, and so escaping all but momentary observation.

### Yanks' Bombs Effective

The American planes were an active factor until late to-night. Before the fog actually had lifted they were over the German lines, machine gunning the men in the trenches and harassing the transports and artillery. Time and again the roads behind the lines were choked by fliers, who with their machine guns dropped the horses dragging guns and

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## Berlin Proposes A Federal Austria, Belgian Indemnity

**Immediate Suspension of Hostilities Suggested by Prince Maximilian, Imperial Chancellor, While Baron Burian Pleads for Peace Negotiations Without Delay**

**Autonomy for Alsace-Lorraine, Return of Colonies Demanded**

**Entente Allies Asked to State Their Terms; Action Follows Series of Conferences Among Central Power Rulers and Representatives of German Federated States**

PARIS, Oct. 5.—The Austro-Hungarian Minister at Stockholm has been charged to request the Swedish government to transmit to President Wilson a proposal to conclude immediately with him and his allies a general armistice and to start without delay negotiations for peace.

This announcement is made in a Berne dispatch to the Havas Agency.

The text of the proposal follows: "The Austro-Hungarian monarchy, which has made only defensive warfare and has borne witness several times to its desire to put an end to the bloodshed and conclude an honorable peace, proposes by presentation to President Wilson to conclude immediately with him and his allies a general armistice on land, on sea and in the air and start without delay negotiations for peace."

"These negotiations will be based on the fourteen points in President Wilson's message of January 8 and the four points of his speech of February 12 (February 11), 1918, and those equally of September 27, 1918."

Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey have resolved simultaneously to ask President Wilson to make representation in their interest for a general armistice and negotiations for a general peace, according to a Berne dispatch to the Havas Agency.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 5 (By The Associated Press).—The immediate suspension of hostilities has been proposed by the Imperial German Chancellor, Prince Maximilian, in the Reichstag, according to the Berlin correspondent of the "Tijds." The Entente Allies are to be asked to state their terms.

The Chancellor's proposal embraced also the dispatch of plenipotentiaries to a neutral place to discuss the question of a league for national arbitration and disarmament.

The plenipotentiaries are further to be empowered to discuss the creation of a federal Austria, the right of self-determination for Russian frontier states, the restoration and indemnification of Belgium, autonomy for Alsace-Lorraine and the return of the German colonies.

The terms of the Entente Allies will be asked at the same time, with the object of forming a basis for the consideration of these important questions.

Other advices say that the Chancellor has not yet made the statements credited to him regarding the suspension of hostilities, the appointment of plenipotentiaries and the request for the Allies' terms, but that it was understood he would make such proposals.

The semi-official Wolff Bureau of Berlin has given to the German press the text of President Wilson's recent speech. Several of the newspapers of Western Germany to-day published long reports of the speech without comment.

A joint committee of the German National party has unanimously resolved to accept as the basis of further negotiations a resolution proposed by the Social Democratic party at an earlier conference, according to a dispatch from Vienna. The resolution expresses readiness to negotiate with representatives of the Czech and South Slav peoples on the conversion of Austria into a federalist national commonwealth.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 5.—(Reuter's).—The new peace note of Baron Burian, Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, will declare that all of President Wilson's terms have been accepted, according to a Vienna dispatch to the Frankfurt "Zeitung."

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